



American Citizen Services Unit
U.S. Embassy Santo Domingo
Warden Message



TO: U.S. Citizens

FROM: American Citizens Services Unit

DATE: November 4, 2010

SUBJECT: Tropical Storm Tomas

The following Warden Message is being transmitted to alert U.S. citizens to the development and progress of Tropical Storm Tomas. This information will be updated as conditions warrant.

At 8:00 a.m. the National Hurricane Center issued an advisory stating that a Tropical Storm Watch is in effect for the southern coast of the Dominican Republic from the Haiti border eastward to Barahona. A Tropical Storm Watch means that tropical storm conditions are possible within the watch area, in this case within 24 to 36 hours. On the current forecast track the center will pass near Haiti or extreme eastern Cuba tonight and early Friday.

Maximum sustained winds are near 50 mph with higher gusts. Some strengthening is forecast during the next 48 hours and a Hurricane Watch is in effect for Haiti. Tomas is expected to produce total rain accumulations of 5 to 10 inches over much of Haiti and the Dominican Republic, with possible isolated maximum amounts of 15 inches. These rains could cause life-threatening flash flood and mudslides over mountainous terrain. Tropical-storm-force winds extend outward up to 115 miles from the center of Tomas.

ONAMET, The Dominican National Meteorological Office, continues to warn boaters that abnormally large waves, between 6 to 8 feet, may occur along the country's Atlantic coast, and waves of 8-10 feet along the Caribbean coast. ONAMET advises that all vessels remain in port and that all aquatic activities be suspended.

ONMAET has declared a Tropical Storm Alert for the provinces of Pedernales, Barahona, Bahoruco, Independencia, San Juan de la Maguana and Elías Piña, and an Early Storm Warning

for Azua, Dajabón, Santiago Rodríguez y Montecristi. An Alert means that in a period of 48 hours or less, tropical storm conditions of strong winds, heavy rains, and high waves may be present in the watch area. A Warning means that in a period of 72 hours or less, tropical storm conditions of strong winds, heavy rains, and high waves may be present in the watch area. ONAMET expects a gradual strengthening of Tomas within the next 48 hours.

U.S. citizens residing and traveling in coastal areas in this region and floodplains near rivers and creeks descending from mountainous areas of western provinces should be alert to flooding and landslides in rural areas. COE has cautioned those who reside in the mostly rural areas close to rivers, streams, and canals to guard against rising waters and possible overflows. Do not attempt to cross rising rivers, canals, and streams. Rainfall and rising waterways in the provinces of La Vega, Espaillat, Duarte and María Trinidad Sánchez could also cause flash flooding and mudslides.

U.S. citizens are advised that U.S. Embassy personnel have been restricted from traveling to the border area for the remainder of the week. Residents in Santo Domingo and other areas adjacent to the water should remember that storm surge can flood coastal roads quickly. Take appropriate precautions when driving. In the event of local government ordered evacuations, U.S. citizens are advised to follow instructions of civil emergency personnel.

Tropical storms can develop into hurricanes very quickly, limiting the time available for a safe evacuation. Travelers should apprise family and friends in the United States of their whereabouts, and keep in close contact with their tour operator, hotel staff, and local officials for evacuation instructions in the event of a weather emergency. Travelers should also protect their travel and identity documents against loss or damage, as the need to replace lost documentation could hamper or delay return to the United States.

The U.S. Embassy advises all U.S. citizens living in and/or visiting the Dominican Republic take certain basic precautions in preparation of a possible hurricane.

Supplies and Preparation:

- If you are living in the Dominican Republic: Ensure you have adequate supplies of food, water, medications and other essential supplies on hand. It is not unusual for stores and shops to close before, during and after a hurricane. Check your generators and make sure you have an adequate supply of fuel; cut down any dead foliage and remove any debris around your home; secure any items that could become dangerous flying objects (patio furniture, umbrellas, barbeques, etc); have the tools and supplies on hand to secure your house (plywood, nails, shutters, etc). Upper floors in high-rise buildings are at increased risk of windows being blown out, due to the fact that wind speed increases with height.

- If you are a tourist, talk to your hotel front desk to learn about the hotel's emergency plan for a hurricane. Notify your family and friends of your whereabouts and your plans until the storm passes. Be sure to have an adequate supply of necessary prescriptions and medications on hand.

During the Storm:

-Do not go outside, flying debris is lethal;

-Do not watch the storm from beaches as storm surge, rip tides and rogue waves are hazardous.

-Stay inside in an interior room of your residence (bathroom, large closet or pantry). Choose a room with little or no windows that is located away from the exterior wall of the residence;

-Stay off your home/cell phone and radio. Keep all means of communication available for an emergency;

-If a member of your family sustains an injury during the storm, report the injury and degree of severity to the local authorities as soon as possible.

U.S. citizens should monitor local radio, the [National Weather Service](#) and local media to stay aware of any weather developments in their area. For official information from the Dominican Government regarding weather conditions, please visit the [ONAMET](#) website and the [COE](#) website.

The U.S. Embassy will update this warden message if new information becomes available. American citizens should stay current with media coverage of local events and be aware of their surroundings at all times.

American citizens traveling or residing overseas are encouraged to register with the appropriate U.S. Embassy or Consulate on the State Department's travel registration website at <https://travelregistration.state.gov>.

For any emergencies involving American citizens, please contact the American Citizens Services (ACS) Unit of the U.S. Embassy. The Consular Section of the Embassy is located at the corner of Cesar Nicolas Penson Street and Máximo Gómez Avenue, Santo Domingo, D.R.; telephone 809-731-4294; after hours emergency telephone 809-221-2171; ACS unit fax 809-689-6142; e-mail acssantodom@state.gov; web page www.usemb.gov.do.

